

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03209 312105Z

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR

SUBJECT: REPORT ON SELF-HELP MEASURES TAKEN BY GOH UNDER PL-480  
TITLE I AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 271345

1. SUMMARY: GOH HAS UNDERTAKEN, OR AGREED TO UNDERTAKE, NUMBER OF SELF-HELP MEASURES DESIGNED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FOR EXPORT. MEASURES INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN KEY GOH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; NEW LEGISLATION AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN TAXES TO FACILITATE INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION; AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. DISCUSSIONS ALSO UNDERWAY WITH USAID AIMED AT REVITALIZATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND IMPROVING RURAL MARKETING SYSTEM. GOH PLANNING FORESEES INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE. EMBASSY/ MISSION SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS MADE IN SIX SELF-HELP MEASURES LISTED IN PL-480 AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. GOH AGREED TO UNDERTAKE TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. DURING PAST SIX MONTHS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS CONTINUED TO DEVELOP POLICY OF INTRODUCING NEW TECHNOLOGY THROUGH ISLANDS OF DEVELOPMENT (NOW CALLED POLES OF DEVELOPMENT). IN ADDITION, IN ORDER DE-CENTRALIZE OPERATIONS AND THEREBY MOVE AGRONOMISTS CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE, GOH HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED REVISION OF INTERNAL  
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PAGE 02 PORT A 03209 312105Z

STRUCTURE OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROVIDE FOR SEVEN

DIVISIONS, EACH OF WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WITH DISTINCT ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS. UNDER PROVISIONS OF SPECIAL FUND CREATED TO ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES HARDEST HIT BY PETROLEUM CRISIS, GOH REQUESTED AND RECEIVED 20,000 SACKS FERTILIZER WHICH ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF BEING DISTRIBUTED AT COST TO FARMING POPULATION. FUNDS GENERATED FROM SALE ARE BEING DEPOSITED IN SPECIAL ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FOR SIMILAR ANNUAL IMPORTS.

3. SINCE NORTHWEST AREA OF COUNTRY WAS STRICKEN BY SEVERE DROUGHT DURING FIRST HALF OF YEAR AND HAS NOT YET COMPLETELY RECOVERED, THERE HAS BEEN NO ACTUAL INCREASE OF FOOD PRODUCTION THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, THE GOH ENACTED TWO LAWS IN THE SECOND PART OF THE YEAR TO GIVE IT NECESSARY TOOLS TO PROMOTE INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION. FIRST LAW REQUIRES LAND OWNERS UNDER PAIN OF INCREASINGLY SEVERE PENALTIES TO UTILIZE LAND ACCORDING TO ADVICE FROM AGRONOMISTS RATHER THAN ALLOW IT TO LIE IDEL. LAW IS DIRECTED TOWARDS CITY DWELLERS AND FOREIGNERS BUYING LAND FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES. SECOND LAW ESTABLISHED SPECIAL REVIEW OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN ARTIBONITE VALLEY. IN PAST, CONFUSION OVER LAND TITLES HAS PROVED INHIBITING FACTOR IN IMPROVING LAND AND MAKING BEST USE OF IT.

4. GOH HAS TAKEN STEPS TO INCREASE COFFEE AND SUGAR PRODUCTION TO GENERATE NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE. IN AREA O COFFEE, GOH AND USAID ARE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO INCREASE COFFEE PRODUCTION. THE GOH HAS MODIFIED TAXES IN THE COFFEE INDUSTRY, LOWERING TAXES WHEN INTERNATIONAL PRICES ARE LOW, BUT INCREASING TAXES AS THE PRICES RISE. GOH IS ENDEAVORING TO PERSUADE FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT TO ENTER SUGAR PRODUCTION AREA. AT PRESENT, TALKS ARE UNDERWAY WITH IFC OF WORLD BANK TO IMPROVE AND MODERNIZE A SUGAR MILL IN THE NORTH.

5. WITH RESPECT TO REVITALIZATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, GOH HAS PROPOSED THE USE OF US \$1.1 MILLION IN COUNTERPART FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF WATER RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS IN 13 AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS ALSO WORKING WITH USAID ON SPECIFIC IRRIGATION PROJECTS AND IS DISCUSSING ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES WITH OTHER

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT A 03209 312105Z

INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES.

6. WITH RESPECT TO IMPROVING RURAL MARKETING SYSTEM, GOH HAS REMOVED ONE NUISANCE TAX WHICH LIMITED FARMERS' ACCESS TO MARKETS. PL-480 TITLE I FUNDS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO IMPROVE PENETRATION ROADS IN ONE AREA. DISCUSSIONS ARE ALSO UNDER WAY WITH USAID TO INSTITUTE A PROJECT TO IMPROVE FARM TO MARKET ROADS. GOH HAS ALSO MADE PLANS TO CREATE WITHIN THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE A NATIONAL MARKETING AGENCY,  
TO COORDINATE ENDEAVORS, COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION,  
IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROJECTS, AND PROVIDE MARKETING SERVICES  
TO SMALL PRODUCERS AND SMALL INTERMEDIARIES.

7. LITTLE IS BEING DONE DIRECTLY FOR THE MOMENT TO IMPROVE  
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS. FAO IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
TO THE STATISTICS BUREAU FOR ANALYSIS OF THE 1972 AGRICULTURAL  
CENSUS. HOWEVER, THE GOH IS IMPROVING ITS AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMING  
UNIT, AND DEVELOPING A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, BOTH OF  
WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO IMPROVED INFORMATION.

8. THE NEXT HAITIAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-81) PROJECTS  
INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE, BEGINNING WITH A  
HAITIAN INVESTMENT OF \$12 MILLION FOR FY 76-77 AND INCREASING TO  
US \$22 MILLION IN FY 80-81.

9. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY/MISSION VIEW, SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IS  
BEING MADE IN ALL SIX OF THE SELF-HELP MEASURES LISTED IN THE  
PL-480 AGREEMENT SIGNED ON MARCH 20, 1975. PERHAPS EVEN MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS HAS BEEN THE PROGRESS MADE  
BY THE GOH IN THE PAST YEAR IN ANALYZING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR,  
IN REALIZING THAT THIS SECTOR IS KEY TO DEVELOPMENT, IN  
ARTICULATING POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES AND IN  
IDENTIFYING INSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY. THIS MARKED CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND TACTICS, NOW COMBINED  
WITH INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. AND OTHER  
DONORS, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL PL-480 AGREEMENTS, IS A STRONG POSITIVE  
FACTOR IN OVERCOMING THE TRADITIONAL HANDICAPS OF DISINTEREST IN  
THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, SCARCITY OF DOMESTIC FUNDS, AND LACK OF  
SKILLED MANPOWER WHICH FOR MANY YEARS HAVE PREVENTED GROWTH OF  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN HAITI.

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PAGE 04 PORT A 03209 312105Z

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